

scott howell & company

Title: First
Date: 9.10.12
Race: Illinois 13 R3

TEXT ON SCREEN	ANNOUNCER VO
<p>David Gill Supported the failed stimulus. Project Vote Smart</p> <p>Supported government funding Solyndra Project Vote Smart</p> <p>\$500,000,000.00 Our Tax Dollars The Washington Post, 8/2/2012</p> <p>David Gill a single-payer health care plan The Chicago Tribune, 224/2012 More radical Obamacare.</p> <p>David Gill - eliminate Medicare - bureaucrats making changes - new 2% tax to pay for it David Gill for Congress 2004 web site</p> <p>- \$1000.00 per family each year. Physicians for a National Health Program</p> <p>Vote no on David Gill.</p> <p>Paid for by the American Action Network www.americanactionnetwork.org Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. American Action Network is responsible for the content of this advertising.</p>	<p>David Gill supported the failed stimulus,</p> <p>And government funding of companies like Solyndra which lost a half a billion of our tax dollars.</p> <p>Now Gill wants a single-payer health care plan more radical than Obamacare.</p> <p>Gill would eliminate Medicare,</p> <p>put bureaucrats in charge of healthcare decisions, and add a new 2% tax to pay for it... Costing families 1000 dollars a year.</p> <p>David Gill. Radical ideas. We just can't vote for.</p> <p>American Action Network is responsible for the content of this advertising.</p>

Birth Date: 12/25/1959

Birth Place: Chicago, IL

Home City: Bloomington, IL

Religion: Unitarian

[See Full Biographical and Contact Information \(/candidate/biography/33722/david-gill\)](#)

See David Gill's Opponents in the 2012 Congressional Election (#)

Project Vote Smart does not permit the use of its name or programs in any campaign activity, including advertising, debates, and speeches.

David Gill's deadline for submitting the 2012 Political Courage Test has passed. Project Vote Smart is currently entering data and verifying the responses. Results will be available shortly.

[What is the Political Courage Test? \(/about/political-courage-test\)](#)

Issue Positions

In response to the increasing unwillingness of candidates to answer issue questions, Project Vote Smart has researched Presidential and Congressional candidates' public records to determine candidates' likely responses on certain key issues. These are provided below as a courtesy to voters.

Pro-choice ● **Abortion Issues:** Do you consider yourself pro-choice or pro-life?

[...]

(#)

No ● **Budget, Spending, and Tax Issues:** Do you support the elimination of the federal estate tax?

[...]

(#)

Yes ● **Budget, Spending, and Tax Issues:** Do you support using government funds in an effort to stimulate and improve the economy?

[...]

(#)

Vote Smart's Research

- David M. Gill. Issue Position: Tax and Fiscal Policy. "This year's stimulus package (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act), opposed by Tim Johnson, is working, providing an economic cushion for many sectors of the hard-hit economy, including the 15th District. Economists have had 70 years of experience in measuring the effect of increased government spending during a downturn. It is now well-established practice to boost economic activity in such times. The negative impact on the deficit is temporary, as stimulus funding prevents a steeper decline and sets the stage for an earlier recovery." ([votesmart.org \(/public-statement/484871\)](http://votesmart.org/public-statement/484871))

No ● **Business and Employment Issues:** Do you support privatizing elements of Social Security?

[...]

(#)

Yes ● **Crime Issues:** Do you support capital punishment for certain crimes?

[...]

(#)

Yes ● **Education Issues:** Do you support federal education standards and testing requirements for K-12 students?

[...]

(#)

- Yes ● **Environment and Energy Issues:** Do you support enacting environmental regulations aimed at reducing the effects of climate change? [...] (#)
- No ● **Gun Issues:** Do you support restrictions on the purchase and possession of guns? [...] (#)
- Yes ● **Health Issues:** Do you support a publicly-administered health insurance option? [...] (#)
- Yes ● **Immigration Issues:** Do you support a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants? [...] (#)
- No ● **International Policy Issues:** Do you support United States military action in Afghanistan? [...] (#)
- No ● **Social Issues:** Should marriage only be between one man and one woman? [...] (#)

Key

● **Official Position:** Candidate had the Political Courage to address this issue directly.

● **Inferred Position:** Candidate refused to address this issue directly, but Project Vote Smart inferred this issue position based on the candidate's public statements, voting record, and evaluations from special interest groups.

● **Unknown Position:** Candidate refused to address this issue.

[...]

Project Vote Smart's Research: Click on this icon to reveal more information about this candidate's position.

Illinois Congressional Election 2010 Political Courage Test

This candidate has responded to a Political Courage Test in a previous election. As a continued effort to provide the American public with factual information on candidates running for public office, these archived responses are made available here.

(+) Expand All (#)(-) Collapse All (#)

● Abortion Issues (#)

- Pro-choice ● a) Do you consider yourself pro-choice or pro-life?
- No ● b) Should abortion be legal only within the first trimester of pregnancy?

- Yes ● c) Should abortion be legal when the pregnancy resulted from incest or rape?
- Yes ● d) Should abortion be legal when the life of the woman is endangered?
- No ● e) Should federal subsidies be prohibited from being used for abortion procedures?
- f) Other or expanded principles

As an E.R physician, I spend my days preserving and saving life. I've seen many miscarriages and all other pregnancy-related complications. The circumstances surrounding such complications are far too diverse and unique for legislation to address each and every situation; we tread into very murky waters when we pretend to write laws which might account for each of the many and varied pregnancy-related issues-- such attempts will certainly result in otherwise moral and good persons being wrongly accused of criminal behavior.

● Budget, Spending, and Tax Issues (#)

1) Spending

Indicate what federal funding levels (#1-6) you support for the following general categories. Select one number per category- you can use a number more than once.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Maintain Status ● | a) Agriculture |
| Slightly Increase ● | b) Arts |
| Maintain Status ● | c) Defense |
| Maintain Status ● | 1) Intelligence operations |
| Slightly Decrease ● | 2) Military hardware |
| Slightly Decrease ● | 3) National missile defense |
| Greatly Increase ● | 4) Salary and benefits for active duty personnel |
| Slightly Increase ● | 5) Programs to improve troop retention rates |
| Maintain Status ● | 6) Research and development of new weapons |
| Greatly Increase ● | d) Education |
| Greatly Increase ● | e) Environment |
| Maintain Status ● | f) Homeland security |
| Maintain Status ● | g) International aid |
| Slightly Increase ● | h) Medical research |
| Slightly Increase ● | i) Scientific research |
| Maintain Status ● | j) Space exploration |
| Maintain Status ● | k) United Nations |
| Maintain Status ● | l) Welfare |
| Greatly Decrease ● | m) Other or expanded categories |

We should greatly reduce the amount of corporate welfare, which currently dwarfs the amount of welfare provided to struggling families. Corporations should "sink or swim" on their own, without the welfare currently doled out to them by a Congress whose halls are filled with corporate lobbyists.

2) Taxes

Indicate what federal tax levels (#1-6) you support for the following general categories. Select one number per category- you can use a number more than once.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Slightly Increase ● | a) Alcohol taxes |
| Greatly Increase ● | b) Capital gains taxes |
| Slightly Increase ● | c) Cigarette taxes |
| Greatly Increase ● | d) Corporate taxes |
| Maintain Status ● | e) Gasoline taxes |
| Slightly Decrease ● | f) Income taxes (low-income families) |
| Slightly Decrease ● | g) Income taxes (middle-income families) |
| Slightly Increase ● | h) Income taxes (high-income families) |
| ● | i) Other or expanded categories |
| No ● | 3) Do you support the elimination of the federal estate tax? |
| No ● | 4) Do you support requiring the federal budget to be balanced each year? |
| Yes ● | 5) Do you support using government funds in an effort to stimulate and improve the economy? |
| | 6) Other or expanded principles |

I support an estate tax with a \$4 million exemption per person (\$8 million per couple). Balancing the budget over a period of time is necessary, but requiring this annually is foolishness, given the potential for unexpected disasters or wars. Targeted stimulus funding can frequently result in a net GAIN of dollars for the government.

● Business and Employment Issues (#)

● Campaign Finance and Government Reform Issues (#)

● Crime Issues (#)

● Education Issues (#)

● Environment and Energy Issues (#)

● Gun Issues (#)

● [Health Issues \(#\)](#)

● [Immigration Issues \(#\)](#)

● [International Policy Issues \(#\)](#)

● [Social Issues \(#\)](#)

● [Legislative Priorities \(#\)](#)

One Common Ground, Philipsburg, MT 59858 Hotline: 888-Vote-Smart (888-868-3762)

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Email

Effort to create 'green' jobs lags

BYLINE: Carol D. Leonnig; Steven Mufson

SECTION: A-SECTION; Pg. A01

LENGTH: 1394 words

A \$38.6 billion loan guarantee program that the Obama administration promised would create or save 65,000 jobs has created just a few thousand jobs two years after it began, government records show.

The program - designed to jump-start the nation's clean technology industry by giving energy companies access to low-cost, government-backed loans - has directly created 3,545 new, permanent jobs after giving out almost half the allocated amount, according to Energy Department tallies.

President Obama has made "green jobs" a showcase of his recovery plan, vowing to foster new jobs, new technologies and more competitive American industries. But the loan guarantee program came under scrutiny Wednesday from Republicans and Democrats at a House oversight committee hearing about the collapse of **Solyndra**, a solar-panel maker whose closure could leave taxpayers on the hook for as much as **\$527 million**.

The GOP lawmakers accused the administration of rushing approval of a guarantee of the firm's project and failing to adequately vet it. "My goodness. We should be reviewing every one of these loan guarantee" projects, said Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.).

Obama's efforts to create green jobs are lagging behind expectations at a time of persistently high unemployment. Many economists say that because alternative-energy projects are so expensive and slow to ramp up, they are not the most efficient way to stimulate the economy.

"There are good reasons to create green jobs, but they have more to do with green than with jobs," Princeton University economics professor and former Federal Reserve vice chairman Alan Blinder has said.

The loan guarantee program can also be unwieldy. It works like this: Companies negotiate with the Energy Department for a government loan guarantee, which means taxpayers will pay off bank loans if the project fails. Then the Office of Management and Budget must sign off on the guarantees, often changing terms.

The Energy Department says that the green-jobs program is still on track to meet its employment goals. It claims credit for saving 33,000 jobs at Ford Motor Co. - about half of the Detroit automaker's entire hourly and salaried U.S. workforce. The department says the biggest of its loan guarantees, for \$5.9 billion, protected the jobs at Ford by enabling the automaker to upgrade plants in five states to build more energy-efficient vehicles. The Energy Department said the loan would "convert" the Ford jobs to "green manufacturing jobs."

Several economists said they doubt the loan program saved 33,000 jobs at Ford.

"I always take these job estimates with a big grain of salt," Josh Lerner, a Harvard Business School professor who has written about failed government efforts to stimulate targeted industries,

said in an e-mail. "There tends to be a lot of fuzzy math when it comes to calculating these benefits (regardless of the party taking credit for the program)."

A Ford spokeswoman said the loans helped "transform what were primarily truck/SUV plants into flexible manufacturing plants capable of building more fuel-efficient vehicles." That flexibility is key to "helping retain the 33,000 jobs by ensuring our employees can build the fuel-efficient cars people want to drive," said Meghan Keck, who handles government relations for Ford.

Mark Muro, a Brookings Institution fellow who researches the clean-tech industry, said the agency appears to be counting every employee working in upgraded plants, when the more relevant question is how many workers would have been laid off without the loans.

The Energy Department's loan guarantee program, a key component of Obama's 2009 **stimulus** plan, is under heightened scrutiny since **Solyndra**, the first company it backed, declared bankruptcy and closed its doors two weeks ago. The failure of the solar-panel manufacturer, which got a \$535 million government loan guarantee and later direct government loans, led to the layoff of 1,100 workers. It drew down money as recently as July. The government had dispersed \$**527 million** of the loan to **Solyndra**.

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Energy Department officials had vowed earlier this year to create or save more than 65,000 American jobs once its 42 projects were financed and complete. They say the program is now "on pace" to create or save roughly 60,000 jobs. (It shaved roughly 5,000 from the target after two companies turned down the department's offer of help.) The department adds that its projects have helped generate 7,391 temporary construction jobs.

"This does not include tens of thousands of indirect jobs these projects create up and down the supply chain, or the countless additional jobs that depend on America staying competitive with countries like China in the clean-energy race," department spokesman Damien LaVera said.

Renewable-energy firms say many other workers and companies have prospered by being part of the supply chain. BrightSource Energy, for example, a developer of utility-scale solar-power projects, is the recipient of a \$1.6 billion loan guarantee, the second-biggest awarded so far; it says it has purchased goods in 17 states.

Still, agency projections indicate that creating jobs is a laborious process. If the 20 companies that have won loans so far deliver all the new jobs they have promised, they will hire a total of 8,050 new workers for permanent positions. Half of those 20 companies have neither created nor saved any permanent jobs yet; several won their loans only recently. Even the BrightSource project, which employs 700 construction workers now, will employ only 86 people on a permanent basis.

Obama administration officials say the jobs are high-quality and will improve the economy's productivity. In addition to the loan guarantee program, the Obama administration has targeted "green jobs" through cash grants for wind farms and weatherization grants to state agencies.

Muro said administration-supported projects "that may have been honorable investments in technology were sold as short-term job creators for political reasons," he said. "Exaggerated expectations about jobs were set."

The eventual cost of the loan guarantee program for taxpayers remains unclear. If the revised 60,000 target is reached, it would work out to about \$640,000 in loan guarantees for every job created or saved. These financing guarantees were approved by Congress as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

If the companies do well, they won't need to draw on the guarantees and won't cost the government anything. But if the companies go bankrupt, as **Solyndra** did, taxpayers will be on the hook. Moreover, the Treasury Department's Federal Financing Bank has been directly lending

- at extremely low, subsidized rates - to companies that win Energy Department guarantees. Congress and the administration assumed a failure rate of 5 to 10 percent for the program. **Solyndra** represents about 3 percent of the loan guarantees made so far.

Solyndra received the Energy Department's backing and also a federal bank loan - at rates as low as 1.025 percent. It's unclear how much, if anything, the government can recover in bankruptcy proceedings, but it can pursue claims as a creditor.

Solyndra's closure prompted concerns about whether the administration made good bets in the rest of its portfolio of clean-tech projects it had helped subsidize with taxpayer-guaranteed loans. The primary investors in **Solyndra** were funds tied to a major Obama fundraising bundler, Tulsa oilman George Kaiser.

Although the financing of renewable-energy projects was never an ideal way to create jobs, the 2009 **stimulus** package gave Obama a way to get Congress to appropriate more money for renewable energy than it would have provided otherwise.

In addition to guaranteeing loans for renewable-energy projects, the Energy Department has been meting out grants from a separate, less-controversial \$33.7 billion appropriation it received as part of the 2009 economic **stimulus** bill. So far, the department has given out \$18.1 billion from that fund, ranging from \$44,295 to a Swarthmore College science program to about \$1.5 billion to clean up waste at the government's Savannah River nuclear site. Hundreds of millions have gone to companies trying to figure out cheaper ways to capture carbon dioxide from coal plants, a priority for coal-state lawmakers.

OMB staffer warned about Solyndra

BYLINE: Joe Stephens; Carol D. Leonnig

SECTION: A-SECTION; Pg. A02

LENGTH: 1035 words

As the Obama administration moved last year to bail out Solyndra, the embattled flagship of the president's initiative to promote alternative energy, a White House budget analyst calculated that millions of taxpayer dollars might be saved by cutting the government's losses, shuttering the company immediately and selling its assets, according to a congressional investigation.

Even so, senior officials in the White House's Office of Management and Budget did not discourage the Energy Department from proceeding with its plan to restructure a federal loan to Solyndra- a move that put private investors ahead of taxpayers for repayment if the company closed, the investigation by Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee found.

The restructuring went forward, but within months Solyndra failed anyway, leaving federal taxpayers on the hook for much of the half-billion-dollar federal loan. Now, a year after the company's collapse, debate continues over whether the refinancing plan was legal or a wise investment. **Last week, Solyndra's final liquidation plan estimated that the government will recover just \$24 million of the \$527 million that taxpayers lent to the company.**

2b

Details about the debate emerge in internal government documents. They show that Energy Department officials argued that Solyndra might be able to pull out of its downward spiral if given an emergency infusion of cash.

They also show that career OMB staff members circulated a series of e-mails emphasizing the risks of restructuring the loan. In congressional testimony last year, the agency's deputy director suggested that career staff members made the final determination about what to do and "used their best expertise."

The House energy committee is expected to release the results of its 18-month investigation into Solyndra this week. Its report, parts of which were obtained by The Washington Post, suggests that then-OMB Director Jack Lew let the refinancing move forward without intervening, even though some OMB analysts thought a refinancing plan that favored private investors might violate the law. Lew is now White House chief of staff.

Solyndra abruptly shut its doors in August 2011 and defaulted on its loan. A short time later, the FBI raided its offices in Silicon Valley as part of a criminal investigation into whether the company misled the government about its finances.

The congressional report, which revisits a number of events previously reported in The Post, may provide additional ammunition for Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who visited Solyndra's shuttered plant earlier this year and cited it as a symbol of wasted stimulus money. Republicans have accused the administration of favoring Solyndra because its largest investors were funds linked to Oklahoma billionaire George Kaiser, a fundraiser for the president.

Energy Department spokesman Damien LaVera said Wednesday that the department stands by its earlier conclusion that restructuring Solyndra's loan provided the best hope for the company's

success and for protecting taxpayers.

"The record clearly shows that decisions related to this loan were made solely on the merits after careful review by experts in our loan program," LaVera said in a statement. "That includes the shared determination by our career lawyers and outside legal experts that the decision to permit the restructuring of the loan agreement was legal."

The White House declined to comment Wednesday but has repeatedly said there is no evidence that the administration made loan decisions to help a connected political donor.

OMB spokeswoman Moira Mack said the agency's career staff members, who were responsible for calculating the cost of the proposed restructuring, ultimately determined that the Energy Department's approach was reasonable, considering the information available at the time.

On Wednesday, the House energy committee passed the No More Solyndras Act, which would wind down the Energy Department's loan guarantee program for clean-energy initiatives, require greater transparency and prohibit the department from restructuring loan guarantees without consulting Treasury Department officials.

Documents show that in January 2011, when Solyndra was in technical default on its loan, OMB analyst Kelly Colyar concluded that if the company were immediately liquidated, taxpayers would lose \$141 million. If the loan were restructured and more money were released to Solyndra, she estimated, a subsequent default would cost taxpayers \$385 million. The loss was attributable in part to allowing private investors to recover some of their money first.

Colyar said in e-mails that the Energy Department appeared to be giving away its "upper hand" in financing negotiations with private investors, creating additional risk. At the time, Solyndra had failed to meet the terms of its loan and was on the edge of bankruptcy because disbursements from the loan had been frozen.

Colyar said in one e-mail that she was "vastly confused by DOE's decision to negotiate away their senior position in this transaction." She also questioned whether the Energy Department underestimated how much taxpayers could recoup if the company were shut immediately and its California factory sold. The proceeds of an immediate sale would be "significantly HIGHER than DOE's estimate," she wrote in a January 2011 e-mail, meaning that the government "is better off liquidating the assets today than restructuring under DOE's proposal."

Colyar could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

A colleague at the OMB agreed, saying the analysis "confirms our earlier concern that DOE's restructuring could effectively result in higher costs than liquidation." He added that, given the project's high visibility, "DOE is likely to be very sensitive about optics if it should default."

OMB analysts also questioned whether the bailout would be enough to save Solyndra, considering that cheap solar panels from overseas had begun flooding the market. "With increasing competition from China, and other low-cost competitors, it wasn't clear how Solyndra would be able to achieve the scale-up and margins needed" to survive, one e-mail said.

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February 24, 2012 Friday
Chicagoland Final Edition

For the U.S. House

SECTION: NEWS ; ZONE C; Pg. 20

LENGTH: 1494 words

The Tribune continues endorsements today in contested races for the U.S. House \

9th District

Rep. Jan Schakowsky of Evanston needs no introduction. She's one of the more partisan members of Congress, but in much of the 9th District it's considered a compliment to be called "a Jan Schakowsky Democrat." For those who think Schakowsky is too conservative, there's Simon Ribeiro, 30, also of Evanston. He envisions a tax-funded health care system that covers "everyone for everything," a tuition-free higher education system and a graduated, no-exemptions income tax system under which those earning less than \$50,000 pay no taxes and those earning \$100 million or more pay 50 percent. We'll go with Schakowsky. \

10th District

Democratic mapmakers tweaked the boundaries of the famously independent-minded 10th District in hopes of unseating freshman Republican Rep. Robert Dold. The result is a four-way Democratic primary featuring two candidates who sound like they're running in the bright blue 9th. Ilya Sheyman, 25, of Waukegan, is a community organizer barely old enough to serve in Congress. His supporters include the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, MoveOn.org and former Democratic National Committee Chair Howard Dean. Asked to name an issue on which he disagreed with the Obama administration, Sheyman noted that he continued to fight for the so-called "public option" after it had been dropped from the president's health care reform plan. Yes, he bravely took a stand to the left of Obama. Attorney Vivek Bavda, 34, of Mundelein is sharp and has a microscopic command of policy details, but again, probably too liberal for the 10th District.

Deerfield management consultant Brad Schneider, 50, is a much better fit. He has experience working for big companies and running his own, and he has a long record of service to community organizations in the district. He's taken some heat for donating to some of Republican Mark Kirk's congressional campaigns, but this is a bogus complaint. It's a testament to Schneider's independence that on other occasions he contributed to Kirk's opponents. Federal Election Commission records suggest Schneider has found common ground with a wide range of candidates -- Nancy Pelosi, anyone? -- just like the voters he'd represent. Schneider is endorsed.

Long Grove resident John Tree, 45, a colonel in the Air Force Reserves, is an intriguing candidate. We hope we'll see more of him if he doesn't win this race. \

11th District

Naperville scientist and businessman Bill Foster, 56, spent one term in the House before losing to Republican Rep. Randy Hultgren in 2010. He's back on the ballot, running in a new district drawn to favor a Democratic candidate. We endorsed Foster over Hultgren, who was also an exceptional candidate, because we admired Foster's record of breaking with party leaders when he thought they were wrong. He pushed for spending curbs and voted against the White House cap-and-trade carbon emissions regulations, for example. Democratic primary opponent Juan Thomas, 41,

an attorney and former Aurora Township clerk, would unapologetically vote the party line and describes Foster disdainfully as a centrist. We could use more independent thinkers in both parties. Foster is endorsed. Jim Hickey, president of the Orland Fire Protection District, also is on the ballot.

Kane County Clerk John A. "Jack" Cunningham, 73, scored a political victory this week, fighting his way back onto the Republican primary ballot against Rep. Judy Biggert, 74. The state elections board had kicked him off because two digits were transposed in a circulator's address on 31 pages of his nominating petitions. A circuit court judge agreed that was a poor reason to disenfranchise the hundreds of voters who signed those sheets. It was a good call.

That said, our endorsement goes to Biggert, a moderate conservative who has capably represented Chicago's west and southwest suburbs since 1998. She's consistent on issues but willing to listen to the arguments of her opponents, all too rare in Washington. In an attempt to oust Biggert from Congress, Democratic mapmakers fractured her old district and gerrymandered her into the new true blue 5th District. Biggert chose to run in the 11th, where roughly half of her former constituents now live. \

12th District

Considered a safe map when Democrats drew it for Rep. Jerry Costello, the 12th District was suddenly put in play when Costello announced he wouldn't run again.

Local hero Brad Harriman, 58, of O'Fallon, is Costello's horse in the Democratic primary. Harriman was a standout offensive lineman for Belleville East High School who went to college on athletic scholarships and played for two NFL teams in the '70s. He came home and became a teacher and coach and eventually regional superintendent of schools for St. Clair County (he's now retired). He is endorsed over Kenneth Charles Wiezer, a retired carpenter from Granite City.

The Republican primary has its own former NFL player. Rodger Cook, 55, of St. Libory, also played for Belleville East, was captain and MVP at Illinois State University and signed as a free agent with the St. Louis Cardinals. A former police detective, he beat the (Belleville) machine in 1993 and was elected mayor. He campaigned to end free health coverage for the city's 16 part-time aldermen and made the city attorney a fixed-salary job. That track record earns him our endorsement over Jason Plummer, 29, whose family fortune helped to secure the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor in 2010, and psychiatric nurse Theresa Kormos of O'Fallon. \

13th District

The last item on our candidate survey is this: Tell us something about yourself that would surprise us.

"I personally contact hundreds of constituents each week by phone," wrote five-term Rep. Tim Johnson, 65, of Urbana. Actually, that didn't surprise us in the least; it's the first thing anyone says about Johnson. In 24 years in the Illinois General Assembly, he was famous for working the phones even while on the House floor. He's our choice in the Republican primary over Moro veterinarian Michael Firsching, 55, and retired ironworker Frank Metzger, 70, of Glen Carbon.

Emergency room doctor **David Gill**, 52, of Bloomington is trying for the fourth time to unseat Johnson. This year he has an opponent in the Democratic primary: Greene County State's Attorney Matt Goetten, 40, who also serves as a judge advocate general in the Illinois Air National Guard. We give **Gill** credit for tenacity, and for offering and defending specific solutions, but we disagree with his prescription for a **single-payer** health care system, which he promises to push. We'll go with Goetten. \

14th District

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Computer consultant Jonathan Farnick of Woodstock is back for another try. He ran as a write-in in 2006 and lost, filed again in 2008 but withdrew, filed again in 2010 and was removed from the ballot for lack of signatures. He was drawn to politics because he objected to then-incumbent Rep. Melissa Bean's tendency to cross party lines ? one of her best traits, in our opinion. Farnick's opponent in the Democratic primary is first-time candidate Dennis Anderson, 61, of Gurnee. A retired public health worker and medical research administrator, his positions on the issues are far more nuanced than Farnick's. Anderson is endorsed. The winner faces Republican Rep. Randy Hultgren in November. \

17th District

Sen. Dick Durbin's fingerprints are all over the Democratic primary here. Durbin elbowed state Sen. Dave Koehler out of the race days before the filing deadline and is pushing Cheri Bustos, the daughter of Gene Callahan, the widely admired longtime aide to Democratic Sens. Alan Dixon and Paul Simon. Still in the race are Freeport Mayor George Gaulrapp, 52, and Greg Aguilar, 31, director of multicultural services at Augustana College. But this district is on the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's "Red to Blue" list -- one poll in January had incumbent Republican Bobby Schilling trailing a generic Democrat by four points -- and Durbin is pulling out all the stops for Bustos.

That said, Bustos is a strong candidate. (We can't resist pointing out that Koehler was, too.) A former newspaper reporter and hospital communications officer, Bustos, 50, served four years on the East Moline City Council. She has a firm command of the issues and many admirers. She is endorsed. \

18th District

Democratic mapmakers paid Rep. Aaron Schock, of Peoria, a major compliment, all but conceding this district to the popular two-term Republican. He has no primary challenger. We find little that's inspiring about either candidate in the perfunctory Democratic primary. No endorsement.

Want more information?

Read the candidates' answers to the editorial board questionnaire and watch the board conduct candidate debates in key congressional races: elections.chicagotribune.com/editorial

* Find the Jan. 24 editorial, "Why we endorse": chicagotribune.com/endorse

"My plan is much less expensive for individuals. A 2% tax paid by individuals would replace all costs currently incurred by insurance premiums, co-pays and deductibles."

4

"There would be a 2% tax; you'd do away with your Medicare tax because Medicare would no longer exist."

-David Gill

Video available at:

http://webarchive.loc.gov/lcwa0016/20041101075032/http://www.davidgillforcongress.com/video/healthcare_plan_doc.wmv

January 15, 2011 Saturday

Doctor urges single-payer health plan

BYLINE: By, Nancy C. Rodriguez nrodriguez@courier-journal.com

5

SECTION: NEWS

LENGTH: 566 words

President Barack Obama's landmark health care law was significant, "but it is not enough and it will not solve our problem," a national advocate for single-payer health insurance told an audience Saturday at the Urban League of Louisville.

The legislation still leaves 23 million Americans uninsured and without access to quality health care, said Dr. Claudia Fegan, past president of **Physicians for a National Health Program**.

"This is about justice," she said. "Health care should be a right to which everyone is entitled."

Fegan was the guest speaker at an event that was sponsored by **Physicians for a National Health Program**-Kentucky and Kentuckians for Single Payer Health Care and tied to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. It was called "Remembering Dr. King's Cry for Justice in Health Care" and was attended by about 60 people, including Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, Louisville Urban League executive director Ben Richmond and U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth, D-3rd District.

"I want everyone in our community, and particularly in the South and minorities, to know we can do a better job of providing health care to all our citizens," said Dr. Garrett Adams, president and Kentucky coordinator for **Physicians for a National Health Program**.

During her talk, Fegan - who practices primary care internal medicine at the Woodlawn Health Center of Cook County in Chicago - said African Americans are more likely to be uninsured and suffer from higher rates of cancer, heart disease, diabetes and HIV.

"This is our issue. ... This is our reality," said Fegan, who called the fight for better health care the civil-rights struggle of the 21st century.

A single-payer health care system would involve the government or a **government-run** organization collecting all health care fees and paying out all health care costs.

5

Fegan said she knows some are reluctant to criticize Obama's health care law because they support the president. "I think Dr. King would say it's important to tell the truth. Remember, he said, 'The time is always right to do the right thing,' " she said.

She said a single-payer plan would lead to better access to quality health care for all Americans. "There are no easy solutions. We have to be willing to fight and continue to fight," said Fegan, who ended her talk by leading a chant of, "Everybody in, and nobody out."

Fegan's comments came just days before the U.S. House of Representatives is expected to vote to repeal the health care law. The repeal vote would fulfill a campaign promise of Republicans who won control of the House in the November elections. The measure is expected to stall in the Senate, where Democrats remain in control.

Obama has said he would veto a repeal if Congress passes it.

Democrats argue that the health care law, which was signed last year, will expand coverage to

millions of uninsured Americans and help rein in soaring medical costs. Republicans argue that the coverage mandated in the legislation is unconstitutional and that penalties for employers who don't provide coverage discourage hiring.

Yarmuth said the health care law was "an important first step," but he acknowledged that "it was not what I wanted to see. I'm a single-payer guy."

He said health care is a moral issue. "It's not a question of politics; it's not a question of economics," he said. "It's a question of morality."

Reporter Nancy Rodriguez can be reached at (502) 582-7079.

U.S. EDITION Monday, August 27, 2012

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REVIEW & OUTLOOK Updated August 24, 2012, 6:53 p.m. ET

Negative \$4,019

The Obama years have been brutal on middle-class incomes.

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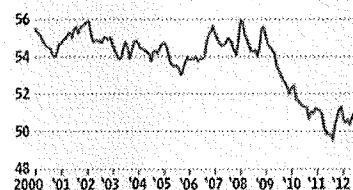
The Presidential race is boiling down to one dominant issue: which party's policies will do more to help the financially stressed American middle class. President Obama's campaign theme is that Mitt Romney and the Republicans cater to the rich, while Mr. Obama cares about struggling families.

He may care, but he sure hasn't done much for them. New income data from the Census Bureau, tabulated by former Census income specialists at the nonpartisan economic consulting firm Sentier Research, reveal that the three-and-a-half years of the Obama Presidency have done enormous harm to middle-class households.

Wages of Obama

Median annual household income, January 2000-June 2012

\$58 thousand



Enlarge Image

In January 2009, the month President Obama entered the Oval Office and shortly before he signed his stimulus spending bill, median household income was \$54,983. By June 2012, it had tumbled to \$50,964, adjusted for inflation. (See the chart nearby.) That's \$4,019 in lost real income, a little less than a month's income every year.

Unfair, you say, because Mr. Obama inherited a recession? Well, even if you start the analysis when the recession ended in June 2009, the numbers are dismal. Three years after the economy hit

its trough, median household income is down \$2,544, or nearly 5%.

Add the authors: "The overall decline since June 2009 was larger than the 2.6 percent decline that occurred" during the recession from December 2007 to June 2009. For household income, in other words, the Obama recovery has been worse than the Bush recession.

It's true that the Bush years overall were also not great for household incomes. According to Sentier's analysis, real median household income is down about 8% from \$55,470 in 2000 before the dot-com bubble burst. Some of this decline is due to the continuation of a trend of smaller family size, lower fertility rates and more Americans living alone. But some was also due to the subpar economic growth across the 2000s.

That slow growth trend has become worse since the latest recession, and this is where Mr. Obama is implicated. The President portrays the financial decline of American families on his watch as part of a decades-long trend. He's wrong. Real income for

2% of \$50,964

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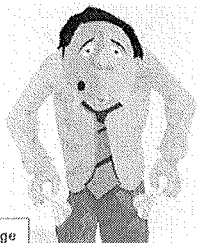
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middle-income households rose by roughly 30% from 1983 to 2005, according to the Congressional Budget Office. The political left likes to blame the ebbing of union power. But nongovernment unionization fell dramatically in the 1980s and '90s, and incomes rose.

So what does explain falling real incomes? Slow growth, yes, but another culprit has been rising prices—especially for food, gasoline, medical procedures and college tuition—that have eroded worker purchasing power. The Federal Reserve claims this is no problem because "core inflation" has been relatively contained. But core inflation excludes food and energy prices, which are two of the biggest components of consumer budgets.



Enlarge Image

Getty Images

The big pay freeze is also the bitter fruit of public schools that have failed to teach the basic skills and knowledge needed to succeed in a competitive global economy. Rising health-care costs have also forced employers to take money that used to go into higher wages to pay higher premiums.

A key driver of higher wages in the 1980s and 1990s was a surge of capital

investment in computers, plant and equipment, which made Americans workers more productive. When Mr. Obama pledges to raise taxes on investment income (capital gains, dividends and small-business profits), he is making it costlier to innovate and modernize. That plays out over time into slower gains in productivity and wages.

Consider the toll from America's corporate tax rate, which is the highest in the industrial world. A 2011 study by economists at the American Enterprise Institute found that because of the capital flight from the U.S. as a result of this high rate, "every additional dollar of tax revenue [from the corporate tax] leads to a \$4 decrease in aggregate real wages." American workers would be the biggest beneficiaries of tax reform.

The new income data reveal other eye-opening trends. The group that has suffered the most during the Obama Presidency has been black Americans, whose real incomes have fallen by more than 11%.

Mr. Obama also likes to say that government workers like teachers are hurting and the private economy is doing "just fine." But the data indicate that over the past three years households with government workers saw their incomes decline less than households with private workers. The public-private pay gap is now wider than ever (\$77,998 government versus \$63,800).

Every age group has seen a decline in income—except the elderly. Those between the ages of 65 and 75 saw an average 6.5% gain in income, though most are not working and collect Medicare and Social Security.

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It's no coincidence that economic policies then and now are so similar. If Mr. Obama succeeds in convincing voters that he really is the tribune of the middle class, it will be the political conjurer's trick of the century.

A portion of this article appeared August 2, 2012, in our Aug. 12 U.S. edition of The Wall Street Journal, with the headline: Negative \$4,019

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A universal public system would be financed in the following way: The public funds already funneled to Medicare and Medicaid would be retained. The difference, or the gap between current public funding and what we would need for a universal health care system, would be financed by a payroll tax on employers (about 7%) and an income tax on individuals (about 2%). The payroll tax would replace all other employer expenses for employees' health care, which would be eliminated. The income tax would take the place of all current insurance premiums, co-pays, deductibles, and other out-of-pocket payments.